

REMARKS

As a result of the foregoing amendment, claim 1 has been amended by including the subject matter of claim 2.

In addition, it has been made clear in claim 1 that the longitudinal slot is undercut, so that an inner side of the longitudinal slot projects inwardly into a corner formed between the projection and a radially outer end section of the clamping part adjoining the projection and extending radially beyond the projection.

The features added to claim 1 are clearly illustrated in the drawing as originally filed. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

The language of claim 1 is intended to make clear that a hose clamp having the shape claimed in the present application would not fit into the rail of Richards. This is because the end portion 11 which protrudes radially outwardly beyond the projection 5 of the clamping part 4, would prevent this. In other words, in the reference to Richards, the wall B would not be able to accommodate the end portion 11, while, conversely, the radially outer wall of the support of the present application makes this possible because the rail is configured in such a way that it accommodates the

clamping part 4.

It is submitted that it is clear from the above that claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom are patentable over the reference to Richards.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Richards, are respectfully requested.

Applicants have noted that the Examiner has indicated that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, it is submitted that it is clear from the above that the claims currently in the application are patentable over the art of record.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 26, 2005.

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